Meeting Notes

March 15, 2012 9:00 AM

Live Oak City Hall
9955 Live Oak Blvd, Live Oak CA

Appropriate Beneficial Uses for Agricultural Drains Receiving NPDES Discharges

Attendees:

Reclamation District 777
Ron Ruzich

Sutter Extension Water District
Lynn Phillips

Laughlin-Spence Civil Engineering *(for Reclamation Districts 777 and 2056)*
Jeff Spence

City of Live Oak
Bill Lewis

Central Valley Water Board
Anne Littlejohn
Calvin Yang

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide a brief background on the project
- Review hydrology and water management in the study area
- Review monitoring sites and timeline

Meeting Summary

1. **Background**

    a. A brief background on the current project was provided covering:
        i. POTW discharges to Ag. drains, MUN designation via Basin Plan's interpretation of the Drinking Water Policy, resulting economic implications to small communities
            - *Meeting participants confirmed that they had no knowledge of MUN use in the area.*
        ii. CV-SALTS stake in the project – CV-SALTS has a parallel process in place reviewing MUN designation in agricultural drains within the POTW watersheds

as potential archetypes to develop templates for similar reviews in other areas of the Central Valley.

b. The initial study will lead to a broader analysis of the appropriate beneficial uses in the Central Valley's agriculturally dominated water bodies

2. <u>Hydrology and Water Management</u>

a. Bill Lewis provided detailed map information of the channels from Live Oak's effluent discharge point to the Sutter Bypass. He also provided photo documentation of the channels on March 12, 2012 (no recent rain events) and March 14, 2012 (after 1.6 inches of rain recorded in Yuba City)

b. The map and photos were reviewed going downstream from the City of Live Oak's wastewater treatment plant. Key highlights include:

i. Lateral 2 receives runoff from the urban area of Live Oak. The wastewater treatment plant discharges to Lateral 2 prior to its confluence with Lateral 1. Water was very low in the March 12, 2012 pictures and significantly higher on March 14, 2012.
ii. There is no water district flow to Reclamation District's Lateral 1 at the North portion (ends in an Orchard field) upstream of the wastewater treatment plant. The orchard uses micro-sprinklers producing virtually no runoff. Runoff occurs only during storm events.
iii. Adjacent fields to the west are primarily for rice or winter wheat crops.
iv. Downstream on Lateral 1, after its confluence with Lateral 2, the Live Oak effluent was the only discharge on March 12, 2012 (no rainfall). There are private and public ditches that drain storm water during rain events to Lateral 1.
v. Lateral 1 meets the East Intercepting Canal at Pease Road. This canal receives irrigation, urban and storm runoff. The March 12, 2012 photos show no flow from the east. Two flume structures are located along the channel west of Township road along the water supply channel that runs over the reclamation channels. The Sutter Extension Water District closes these during irrigation. Sutter Extension overflow can spill into the Reclamation District channels. No irrigation water is being supplied yet for this year.
vi. A large flow (2-3 times the amount of flow coming from the wastewater treatment plant in Lateral 1) is shown in photographs entering the East Intercepting Canal between Township Road and the first (east) flume structure via a Reclamation District 2056 channel that runs parallel with

Lateral 1. General consensus was that this flow was due to the high water table. The "Butte Sink" area is known to have a very high water table resulting in the seepage of groundwater.

vii. Water from the East Intercepting Canal flows to the Wadsworth Canal and then to the Sutter Bypass. Wadsworth Canal is never dry due to the high water table in the area. However, it may be blocked for a period of time at Weir 4 near the South Butte Road crossing during the irrigation season. There are no block structures during the winter.

viii. Heavy storms can back up water from the Sutter Bypass to Wadsworth Canal.

ix. Main source of water for the Sutter Extension Water District is the Feather River. They also utilize groundwater from 2 wells.

- *Stakeholders agreed that groundwater in the area would not meet MUN standards due to possible iron, arsenic and nitrate contamination*

Action Item for Central Valley Water Board staff:

- *Follow-up with Bill Lewis to obtain electronic files of photograph documentation on March 12 and March 14, 2012*
- *Request and compile local groundwater quality information*

3. <u>Review of Monitoring Sites and Accessibility</u>

a. There was a brief discussion of potential monitoring sites and accessible areas along the different channels.

b. Initial timeline for site surveys and monitoring was discussed along with the first 3-month strategy of sampling for constituents identified in the Basin Plan for the protection of MUN beneficial use.

- *Concerns were raised as to the extent of the monitoring, number of analytes and impact of water quality results on the basin planning process.*

4. <u>Next Steps</u>

a. After the meeting, Bill Lewis accompanied Central Valley Water Board staff on a field survey of the area.

b. Central Valley Water Board will complete field reconnaissance by the end of March 2012. Water Quality monitoring will start in April 2012.

c. Meeting participants will be included in future project meeting correspondence as a stakeholder. Next project meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2012.